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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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MAY DAY 2022

POWER TO THE WORKERS!

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

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SCAN ME

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Abort capitalism
The only healthy choice for our class is communism

The U.S. ruling class is imploding. The leaked draft of a Supreme Court ruling to destroy a fundamental part of women's healthcare—access to abortion—reveals a deeply divided ruling class. In the desperate battle between the Big Fascists of multinational finance capital and the domestically oriented Small Fascists, the U.S. bosses are ready and willing to destroy trust in their most sacred institution.

The Big Fascist media typically describe the fight over abortion as one between compassionate "pro-choice" liberals and heartless "pro-life" reactionaries. But this framing ignores the longstanding sexism and racism that bars working-class women from life-saving access to healthcare. It also minimizes the threat posed by the dominant Big Fascist bosses as they move toward a bloody global conflict and the vicious destruction of working-class lives around the world.

Antisexists, let's not fall into the trap of voting for the liberal rulers who oppress us. They are the greatest danger, not the lesser evil. The international Progressive Labor Party seeks to win our class to understand that the capitalist profit system is fundamentally incompatible with our health and development as working people. Working women's access to decent healthcare can be won only when a mass party destroys the profit system with communist revolution.

Supreme Court rooted in slavery, in interest of exploiters

Before we can talk about the intensification of sexism in an already oppressive system, let's dispel the myth that the Supreme Court—and all the lower courts that follow it--were ever neutral bodies. Far from it! The courts are where the ruling class can resolve its differences and create a legal justification for its racist and sexist oppression—all of it justified by having "the national interest" at heart.

The U.S. Constitution, the bedrock for every Supreme Court ruling, was written by enslavers to protect slavery (news.Berkeley.edu, 9/17/19). Built on the blood and mass murder of our class sisters and brothers, slavery generated huge accumulations of wealth. It was the foundation for U.S. capitalism and, eventually, the U.S. empire. The Constitution was essential in legalizing the exploitation and dehumanization of our class. Consider the Dred Scott decision of 1857, which ruled that Black people were "beings of an inferior order," or Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), which upheld racist Jim Crow laws as "separate but equal." In the 1900s, the Supreme Court ruled in favor of the forced sterilization of disabled workers, the imprisonment of ethnic Japanese families in concentration camps, and the criminalization of same-sex relationships. Under capitalism, there is only one absolute law: the law of profit. (For a look at how the bosses have used their legal apparatus to control reproduction, see page 5.)

Fascist dogs tear down their own myths

As liberal capitalist mouthpiece Jamelle Bouie wrote in the New York Times (5/6), the Supreme Court is "acting on behalf of the Republican Party and its allies. Whatever legitimacy it had retained was sacrificed in the drive to…overturn Roe v. Wade." But why would the Big Fascists call the Supreme Court an "instrument of oppression" (New York Times, 5/8)? It's because they need more unity from both bosses and workers as they move toward World War III—and they can't get it without intensifying their attack on the isolationist Small Fascists. But regardless of which side disclosed the Court's intention to eliminate Roe v. Wade and abandon nearly 50 years of precedent, it's a clear sign of weakness for the Big Fascist liberals. When rulers expose their naked infighting, it can only alienate the people they must enlist for the next patriotic war.

The Small Fascists have already destroyed the U.S. Congress by ignoring the "rules" to keep differences within limits. Now the Big Fascists are taking down the Supreme Court. Without trusted institutions that can manage the two factions' disagreements, the situation becomes increasingly volatile--which spells more attacks on workers. The move to outlaw abortion could be a precursor for attacks on other sections of the working class, from undocumented workers hoping to be legalized to LGBTQ workers planning to get married. Clearly, any reforms won under capitalism can be revoked.

Racist, sexist healthcare kills

Of course, sexist attacks on our class are nothing new. The U.S., which markets itself as a beacon of freedom and civil rights, has no guaranteed paid parental leave or universal childcare or healthcare. But it does have:

- an outrageously racist maternal death rate! Black women are three times more likely to die in pregnancy and postpartum than their white counterparts (PRB, 12/6/21)
- a racist, sexist prototype for medical research: the single white male (The Hastings Center Report)
- women in the U.S. are more likely to die from preventable causes than in other industrialized countries(Axios, 4/5)
- OB/GYNs in only half of all counties, a fraction that is projected to decline (Medicine.net, 5/8)
- doctors, regardless of gender, who refuse to believe women's pain symptoms (Medical News Today, 10/25/21)

In reality, capitalism is the main obstacle to healthy childrearing—and the primary driver of abortion. Most women getting abortions already have at least one child. About 75 percent of abortion patients are "poor or low income" (Romper, 5/3), a big problem in a country where raising just one child costs over a quarter-million dollars (USDA, 2/18). Worldwide, these are the same women who most often get shortchanged on prenatal care and quality maternity and neonatal care (Pubmed, 7/17/19). Since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, this racist, sexist inequality has only grown worse.

For working-class women, capitalism makes pregnancy undesirable by turning a wonderful thing, a new life, into an impoverishing or even fatal development.

Big Fascists are big dangers

During his election campaign, U.S. President Jim Crow Biden tweeted that "as president, I will codify Roe into law" (10/5/19 at 11:35 AM). What Biden failed to mention is that he and his vice president, Top KKKop Kamala Harris. and the rest of the Democrats did nothing to protect working-class women's access to abortion when they controlled both houses of Congress and the executive branch during the Barack Obama administration. It would be a grave mistake to let the liberal bosses turn abortion into a "vote or die"campaign where they force our class to choose among our exploiters.

Here is how much the Big Fascist liberals care about our health: As they seek to spend $40 billion more on the inter-imperialist war in Ukraine (abcnews, 5/9), they are cutting the measly $3,000 child tax credit to help working-class families withstand Covid-19, which still rages. Workers must reject these rulers who smile in your face and stab you in your back, again and again.

What must be done?

If we want to win the fight for the working class to have access to abortions and other healthcare, we must learn the lessons of the George Floyd movement. Any reform fightback can be co-opted by the bosses and steered toward the dead end of the voting booth., Everymember of the working class needs to make revolution primary over reform and join PLP to burn this capitalist system down. What does that mean today?

We must free class struggles from the grips of the fascists, Big or Small. We must build a large base of fightback where we are deepening relationships with workers, sharing CHALLENGE, and recruiting to PLP. That is how we will lay the foundation for a communist revolution and a new and healthier world for every child who's brought into it.✪

May Day 2022

CHICAGO
Communist revolution—not capitalist war

CHICAGO, APRIL 30 –"Communist revolution – not capitalist war!" This revolutionary message rang through the air as over 60 multiracial Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members and friends of the Party celebrated International Workers' Day on the City's South Side. Driving wind and rain could not dampen our spirit as we rallied around the communist red flag and our international fight for a world free of racism, sexism, borders, and exploitation.

Every May Day is important to our Party and the working class, but with an impending inter-imperialist war, the stakes are even higher. Competing imperialist blocs of the United States and Western Europe squaring off against their ruling class rivals in China and Russia threaten to engulf the planet in another world war over power and profits. This year, we wanted our class to know wide and clear that there is only one path out of this capitalist nightmare - communist revolution.

What makes May Day so inspiring is that it provides a powerful glimpse of the communist future that we are fighting for. Workers united in common purpose, rejecting the bosses' poisonous divisions, and boldly demonstrating that the international working class shall be the human race!

Workers unite for communist revolution

This year's May Day took place in the Bronzeville neighborhood, an area home to thousands of Black workers and with a deeply radical history. The area was a hub of communist organizing throughout the early 20th century, with Black and white workers united in struggle against racist terror, segregation, evictions and unemployment.

Today we were proud to not only carry on that revolutionary legacy, but advance it. PL'ers and friends traded off leading chants on the bullhorn, such as "The workers united, will never be defeated!" and "Whose day? Our day! What day? May Day!" With our ranks fired up, we lined up to begin our march down 35th Street. Workers along the route raised their fists and honked their horns on sight. Many were eager to receive copies of CHALLENGE, of which we easily distributed 400 copies. With our Party having fought against racist police terror in this neighborhood for many years, we were primed to receive a warm welcome!

Target capitalist contradictions and take state power

Our first target on our march route was the headquarters building of the racist and fascist Chicago Police Department (CPD). These vicious attack dogs for the capitalist class hardly need any introduction when it comes to their racist terror committed against working people of the city, particularly Black and Latin workers.

A veteran PLP member gave a fiery speech at the front door, blasting the racist thugs in blue for their history of state-sponsored terror and ongoing role in maintaining the capitalist status quo:

"Cops provide the bosses' security and control of workers as we labor for their profits locally. The military is used to enforce those same racist and anti-worker interests internationally through imperialism… We have to compare these actions to show that our fights for revolutionary communism must be as international as the capitalists' attempts to crush and silence workers who fight back!"

Our next target was an immigrant worker concentration camp hidden in plain sight. This jail for workers and youth represents just one of the many facilities locally and across the country that are profiting handsomely off contracts with the bosses to detain and oppress our class. Those profits drive racist criminilization against undocumented workers.

A PLP high school teacher and a student both gave powerful speeches that called on workers everywhere to fight back and build the Party. The student detailed the brutal experience of her family at the hands of the racist bosses' deportation machine, and in both English and Spanish, called us to action:

"The kids that are in this damn detention center, their parents, their loved ones -- none of these stories are unique! We are at war. Bosses have always been waging war against us. I have not come across a group or party that is willing to actively fight back other than PLP… If there are bosses, there will be a war against our class. People will be imprisoned, killed, and deprived of the necessities to live. PLP is fighting for revolution. If you are not fighting for revolution, you are not fighting to end this war!"

Build for a communist future TODAY

We concluded our day's action in a nearby park. After some tasty lunch and socializing, we heard more speeches, including a report back from one of the workers involved in the University of Illinois Chicago Graduate Employees Organization strike (see CHALLENGE, 5/11). The inspiring keynote speech from another PLP leader reminded us that under the gathering storms of imperialist war, the time for our class to fight for communist revolution is NOW. Finally, we were entertained by some class conscious stand-up comedy from a young worker and finished by smashing a piñata in the shape of a capitalist boss!

The time is indeed now for the international working class to double down on our commitment to build the Party and fight for communism. Here's to another successful May Day, and the long fight ahead!

LOS ANGELES
Lead with confidence in the working class

LOS ANGELES, April 30–The 12 months since last May Day have been a hell of a year for the working class worldwide. With COVID-19, imperialist wars, unending police murders and terror , unemployment, and a housing crisis ravishing working-class communities, especially Black, Latin and Asian, it can be hard to imagine creating a better world for all of us. Yet, May Day reminds us that we have a communist world to win if we can join together with our class brothers and sisters.

Building struggle for a communist future

This year we in Progressive Labor Party (PLP) hosted our own dinner in a local park. A multiracial, multi-generational group of 60 workers gathered to celebrate May Day with food, speeches, songs, and poetry. It was a beautiful, sunny afternoon filled with the collective efforts of PL'ers, friends, and family to bring together nourishment for the mind, body, and soul.

The program was Emceed by a PL'er and an enthusiastic, artistic student who shared her poetry and free-style rap during the program. Another group of students shared an illustrated history of May Day. In between, musician comrades led us in lively renditions of Bella Ciao and Señor Inversionista. There was the ever popular Table Talk and CHALLENGE Quiz where we discussed capitalism vs. communism and whether the working class ever benefits from capitalism.

Another highlight was a sculpture of Helen Jones, the mother of John Horton, who was murdered by LA Sheriffs in Men's Central Jail. It captures her revolutionary struggle for her son and inspired another comrade to write and perform a poem honoring her and all the families impacted by a system that fails us time and time again. This was followed by a moving performance of Too Many Names. We continue to fight alongside families that have been forever changed by police murders in Los Angeles and link their struggles to the world-wide fight for an antiracist, antisexist, communist future.

Build confidence in the working class

PLP has been involved in struggles against police terror for many years. In LA, we work directly with several families whose loved ones have been murdered by killer kkkops, some in this last year alone. Together, we have led regular rallies and protests in South Los Angeles. Not only do the families speak about their experiences with the racist LAPD and the County Sheriffs, but we build the confidence of our class to take state power by taking over the street and collectively confronting the police.

PL'ers are also active in a tenants' union campaign to make needed repairs to apartments where the slumlord refuses to make the workers' units habitable. Workers always support us.

Leading up to May Day, one worker from the tenants' union campaign joined our May Day committee and is learning more about the Party. Hundreds of people were exposed to communist, antiracist politics, and more people understand the strength of the working class when we unite. The future here looks bright for the growth of PLP and our movement to rid the earth of the exploiters and their henchmen in "law enforcement."

MAY DAY 2022

BAY AREA
Smash borders & bosses

OAKLAND, April 29 – Progressive Labor Party participated in several May Day events on Friday April 29 and Sunday May 1. Though small, PLers in the Bay Area were able to spread communist ideas via our chants and newspaper, which were openly accepted by protesters at the demonstration. Workers are always open to communist politics.

Oakland: racist attack on students and workers

In Oakland, a primarily Black and Latin city, PLP attended protests at three schools over threatened closures. The teachers and students connected the closure of schools to the closure of the port in Alameda (next to Oakland) to build a baseball stadium. Teachers and port workers united against privatization, a process that disproportionately hurts Black, Latin, and immigrant students and families. "The vast majority of students at the targeted schools — some 93% — are considered either lower-income, English learners or foster youth. Black students… [are] more than 40% of the student body…" (KQED, 4/29). The bosses will continue to make the working class pay for a crisis their system created.

Charter schools have a tighter control of both its students and workers. At the Oakland rally, PLP distributed CHALLENGE and leaflets describing the way privatization further streamlines the process of producing students who have been taught not to think for themselves but rather to obey orders and conform to the bosses' demands, training our students to become obedient workers who passively accept their exploitation. Public schools, like all schools under capitalism, are no better in their willingness to indoctrinate students with ideas that normalize racism, sexism and class exploitation. A system that treats some students as expendable does not deserve to exist!

San Francisco: workers have no borders!

On May Day Sunday, PLP attended the immigrant rights march calling for legalization for millions of undocumented workers and restoration of the asylum process at the border. These are just two of Biden's broken campaign promises. A crowd of 400 mostly Spanish speakers heard PLP's communist chants. "La Migra, Cochina, Racista y Asesina" (ICE, Pigs, Racists and Murderers) was well-liked. "Este puño si se ve, Los obreros al poder" (this fist that you can see, workers to power) was new to the crowd. We promoted international working-class unity and discussed the idea of "¡Aplastar! las Fronteras" (Smash all Borders!). Relying on the liberal bosses to lead these fights for undocumented workers will lead us into fighting in their inter-imperialist wars or in a cycle of being sifted through empty reforms (see editorial).

PLP distributed 77 CHALLENGEs, mainly to those interested in our communist headline about May Day, some of the international reports, transit struggles, and student actions. We made one contact and gave literature to MUNI bus drivers.

Meanwhile, other PLP members attended the May Day march called by the AFL-CIO union where we also distributed literature and met people.

We plan to follow up with our friends to discuss the role of borders and the basis of immigration policies in the capitalists' need for a divided labor force, especially in this time of war. Slowly but surely, we are politically sharpening our forces and building the party. It was an exciting weekend! ✪

HAITI

The following are post May Day reflections from workers in Haiti. Look out for an article about their Day celebration in our next issue of CHALLENGE

Think like a communist

I first met communist members of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) following the earthquake in my hometown in the summer of 2021. I could see that these people want us to have an egalitarian society, where everyone can get what they need and want. Here in Haiti (and I believe elsewhere too) there is a greedy and a brutal bourgeois minority which monopolizes almost all the wealth of the country. This goes back not only to slavery, but the period after too, when the mixed race children of the French slave masters demanded and gained , through fraudulent maneuvers, property and power. Now workers want a real redistribution of wealth so that everyone can live life as it should be.

A few months after I met PLers, a friendly relationship developed between us. We often talk about how the capitalist system works, why "tout koukouj klere pou je yo" (everything is about looking out for self-interest), and about how we are going to advance to eradicate this rotten system. I can say that through these discussions,

I see the world in a different way. The world would surely be different if capitalists thought like communists, but of course that's not possible. Our class interests are in direct opposition to one another. Our membership in the working class makes us think about the world differently from the bosses.

My thinking skills are increasing and I am becoming more and more confident in these ideas and in myself. I helped organize today's May Day conference at our university and discovered new experiences in leadership, being responsible for carrying out tasks necessary to make the day a success. I really enjoyed doing it and helping bring these ideas to a wider audience.

Being a communist is not an easy thing. If it was, we would have won our final victory already. I realize that the battle is long and we have to fight until the end, and do a lot more. Not only expand our base in the university, but among the working class as a whole. We have to study and we have to engage in class struggle (there is no end to what we are justly angry about!). We have to win young and old alike to the cause of communist revolution and an egalitarian society free from racism and sexism, war and exploitation, kidnappers and brutality.

★

Find motivation in the midst of class struggle

It was really great to have the chance to participate in this May Day conference and learn more about the labor movement and the role of communists. It is a good opportunity to tell our brother and sister comrades not to give up the struggle, because only the working class in this capitalist world can make revolution to change it. I have read elsewhere that imperialism is the final stage of capitalism, which hinders social progress in all forms. We believe this is true and we find our motivation in the struggle of workers. And one day, the working class in our country (and around the world) will no longer be a reserve army of labor and a tax haven for the rulers. Finally, in the same way that we fought and won against being chattel slaves, we will fight and win against being wage slaves: we will decide for ourselves and we will take our destiny in hand where we will all live equal as humans.

★

Revolutionary flavor, a real pleasure

It was a real pleasure for me to participate in the May Day celebration. At first I thought it would be the usual Agricultural Festival that the government organizes every year. But boy, was I wrong. I learned a lot of things about the workers' movement, why our living conditions are filled with such misery, and how to change that through struggle. I also loved the musical interlude; the musicians really added revolutionary flavor to the day. I expect that the next time we meet will be even more fruitful.

★

DC Transit

Strike wins reform, workers need revolution

Strike to win better work conditions, fight for communist revolution

May 5, Washington, DC– Circulator transit workers in the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) Local 689 forced RAPD, a private contractor of the public Metro Transit system, to increase wages 25 percent (still below parity with other transit workers), make modest improvements in health coverage and retirement, and limit contracting out. One hundred and sixty mainly Black workers struck solidly for three days (only one scab) after months of management stonewalling negotiations. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) members in the ATU were intimately involved in this action, organizing and leading pre-strike rallies and marching on the picket lines, with other comrades bringing sandwiches and CHALLENGE newspapers to the three Circulator garages.

Limits to reform

This advance in the class struggle may only be temporary, though, as the transit bosses are exhausting the federal funds they got from the Covid-19 appropriation, and management counter-attack will surely happen. With contracts of hundreds more transit workers expiring in two months, the strike preparation lessons from this battle will be valuable. While fighting for reforms may improve conditions for our class for the moment, history shows us that reform gains are fleeting and with every capitalist crisis these gains are always reversed and supplemented with attacks on our class.

The most valuable lesson for workers is to measure the success of strikes, not just as an improvement of our immediate conditions, but as a practice run to prepare us for the day when we overthrow this rotten system that forces us to negotiate the terms of our misery and exploitation. Strikes are schools for communism and through them we unleash our revolutionary potential. Derailing the bosses profiteering, we put our ability to shut down capitalism and regain control of our labor to the test.

PLP'ers in the ATU jump-started the process of growing our revolutionary potential, ensuring every striking worker received a copy of CHALLENGE. Our participation in the strike as workers and communists deepened PLP's ties to the most militant, class-conscious workers. We urge fellow ATU workers to keep fighting, keep striking, but don't stop there! Join and build a revolutionary party, the PLP, to lead the overthrow of capitalism and its wage system, must become the primary step in the class struggle in transit.

Strike rooted in communist fightback

The ATU strike was triggered by management's trickery and intimidation tactics on workers, but we said, "Lies and tricks will not divide, workers marching side by side." First they refused to seriously negotiate for months. Then, when we voted 96 percent to strike, they essentially offered a nickel, and said they wouldn't be available to negotiate for almost a month. Then, to disarm workers from going on strike, they offered to negotiate the day before the strike. Workers said forget that, we're striking. Suddenly management came to the table with some concessions. Nevertheless, the Circulator strike, representing a fraction of the 8,000 strong active union members, was partly a fruit of these decades of organizing.

PLP has played an important role in the class struggle at Metro. In 1978, PLP members organized for over a year and led a wildcat strike that literally shut D.C. down for a week. Since then, PLP has fought for intensified class struggle against racism and capitalism and for building a revolutionary communist movement at Metro. PLP members were also active supporters of the 2019 transit strike at Cinder Bed Road, and workers at that site joined the picket lines for the Circulator in solidarity.

Building a stronger PLP club, with new militant transit workers, at Metro is needed to address the capitalist horrors that lie ahead, from imperialist war to inevitable savage racist attacks against the working class in the transit industry. Join us! ✪

Colombia: Don't vote, organize for workers' power

May 11, Bogota–Colombia's ruling class is in the midst of a shameless electoral campaign as they bring more racist and sexist attacks against mostly Black workers living in the most remote and abandoned parts of the country. Every political party under capitalism works to trick the masses into joining their corrupt electoral circus by pushing lies, anti-communism, the farce of peace, and fake anti-corruption campaigns. Electoral politics is a desperate attempt to cover up the crisis created by the profit-driven system and furthermore legitimize its discredited bourgeois dictatorship and its rotten institutions.

Local bosses are consolidating their political, economic and cultural power over the great masses of alienated workers who seek leaders to save them from misery, hunger, unemployment and environmental destruction. All the while, capitalism's destruction of the climate is making droughts, floods, avalanches, and earthquakes much more acute.

Regardless of the outcome of the election, the bosses in Colombia will continue their deal-making with U.S. imperialists,who are given free reign for the exploitation of markets and natural resources. Imperialist institutions such as the IMF, World Bank, UN, OECD, and NATO are the ones that really rule and dictate who and how they will oppress us. Still, the capitalists threaten the workers that if they do not vote "right" they will be left without a job because businesses will flee the country.

The real advance for the international working class is a unified struggle to win a communist system that is consistent with all our basic needs, including clean water, healthy food, sustainable housing, safe transportation, and pro-working class education, all without money, profits or borders. For that, we need to build a mass communist Progressive Labor Party (PLP) of millions of workers around the world.

Voting will never bring working class power

The international working class will never come to power by electoral means. To cite a few recent examples: the liberal fascist AMLO (Andrés Manuel López Obrador) government in Mexico; the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLM) class traitors in El Salvador, Daniel Ortega in Nicaragua, and Nelson Mandela in South Africa. Every former guerrilla and trade unionist who becomes a mayor, governor or president inevitably plays the capitalist role of oppressing and imprisoning those who elected them. Capitalism's politicians deceive workers to follow down the path of nationalism and cross-class collaboration, causing great demoralization in the revolutionary struggle.

The capitalists need elections to sell us the myth that voting will help us reform the profit system to respond to the needs of working people. But that is not the only reason. They hope to find populist, or in other words 'most efficient fascist' candidates who can sidetrack and pacify millions of disaffected workers and youth. For the working class, it will not make much difference if the right-wing Gutiérrez, Hernández, Ingrid Betancur or the Social Democrat Gustavo Petro is elected. In any case, our class does not gain anything by electing one or another bosses' candidate. Only with the destruction of wage slavery and its bourgeois state through communist revolution will it allow the working class to free itself from exploitation, racism, sexism and imperialist wars. We do not need the bosses and their electoral farce.

With CHALLENGE in hand,PL'ers are present in anti-war protests, in rallies against unemployment, in electoral meetings and discussions presenting to the workers our sharpest ideas of how to build working-class unity and communist organization. Many workers tell us they agree but understand it is a long-term struggle. We respond that no matter how long it takes, the problems of our class have no solution in capitalism. We need to fight for the dictatorship of the proletariat.

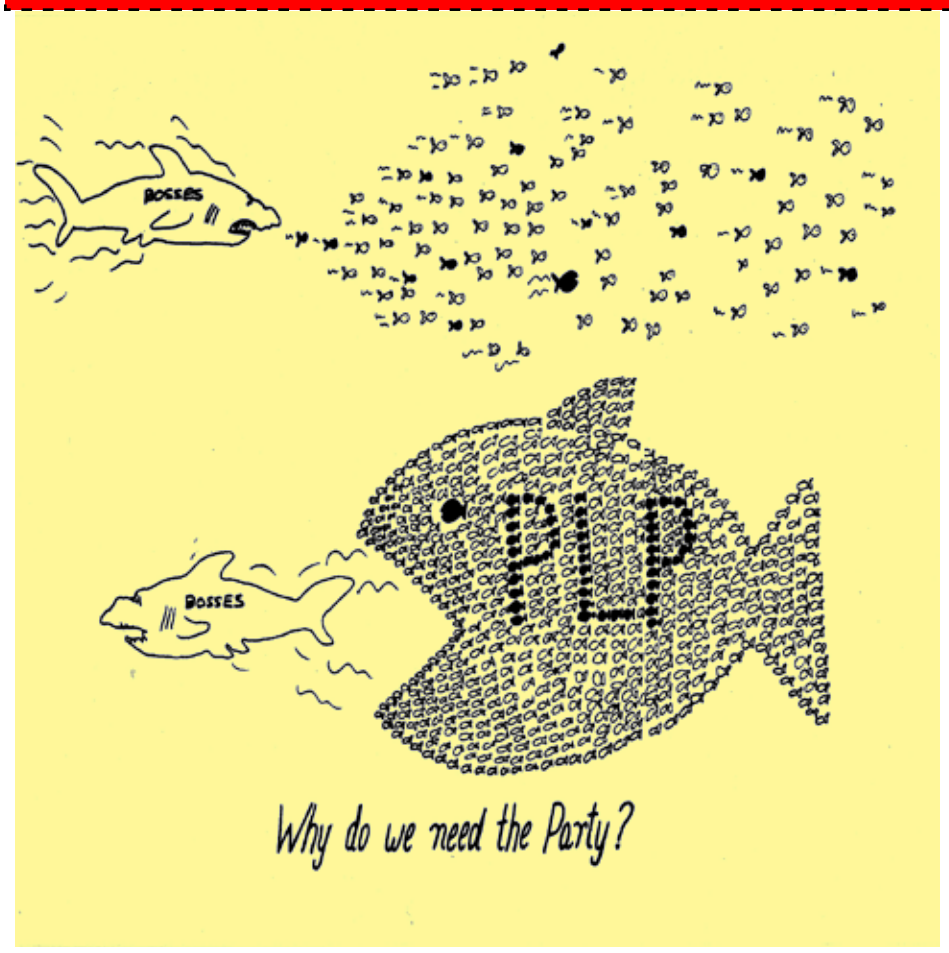
Time for communism is right now

At this moment the bosses and their military, paramilitaries and criminal gangs are assassinating us in all areas of the country and sexually assaulting working-class women. Right now they are slashing wages and jobs. Right now they are gutting social services and decimating hospitals, nursing homes, schools and nurseries servicing our relatives. It is today that the prices of food and basic services are rising non-stop. Right now they are killing and imprisoning hundreds of young people who fight against the misery to which capitalism subjects us. It is today when famines and droughts are destroying the lives and livelihoods of Black workers first and hardest.

It is for all this that we say to our class that the time for fightback and development of our revolutionary communist struggle is right now!Do not vote– join the PLP and fight to meet our needs. Don't vote–distribute CHALLENGE and organize study groups! Don't vote, let's fight for workers' power! Don't vote, let's organize for revolution and build communism! ✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.



A communist education

Sometimes, the Party's ideas can reach people, and have a wonderful impact, in unexpected ways.

Three days ago, I participated in the PLP-organized May Day march in Brooklyn, New York. Then yesterday, I sent videos of the keynote speech to friends who didn't make it to the march.

One friend, who now lives in another state, wrote back saying, "Thanks. I enjoyed that. It is a good reminder of the essence of community."

Another friend, who is a teacher, sent this especially heart-warming note:

"Thank you for sharing this! She educated me soooooooo much just now! Some things I was aware of, but much of what she stated, I did not know! This is powerful! Do you mind if I share this with my students in class tomorrow?... I think it would be powerful to show this and discuss . . . and scrap what my original lesson was going to be."

We never know, in advance, what the consequences will be, when we do a bit of extra Party work. In this case, the lesson is we should be bold in sharing communist ideas, even more broadly than we may have thought possible!

★★★★★

Workers will be safe under communism

The May Day March was great despite the rain, and the chaos trying to get on a commuter train from Indiana to Chicago. It was great to see comrades I have known for years. The best part of the march was taking the Party's message that our only way forward is for the workers to take state power straight to the agents of the racist bosses, the fascist cops at the 'Public Safety' Center in the Bronzeville neighborhood. They now know that we'll be coming for them someday during the communist revolution led by workers under Progressive Labor Party (PLP) leadership. The chants condemning the imperialist Ukraine-Russian war were great. May Day inspired all of us to do BETTER to build this antiracist, anti imperialist, revolutionary communist movement!

★★★★★

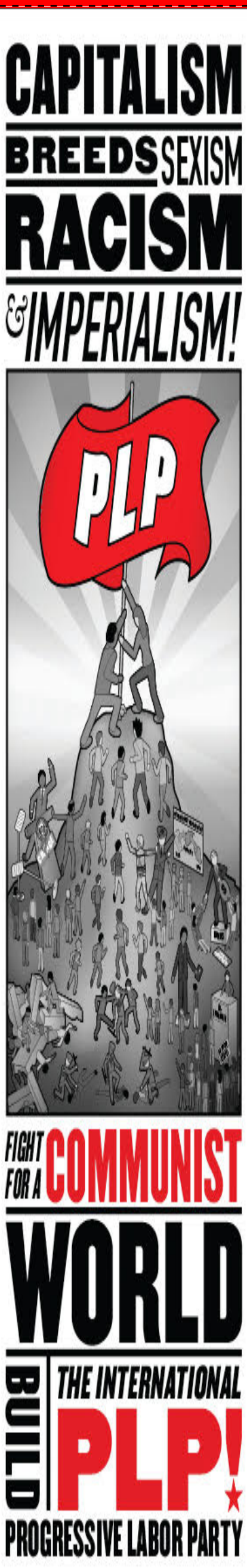
Tale of two May Days

There were two New York May Day marches, a communist PLP march in Brooklyn and a reformist (socialist, anarchist) sponsored march from Union Square to Jeff Bezos' headquarters in Manhattan to support the Amazon union movement. Due to physical limitations I wasn't able to participate in either march but was able to get to the May Day Union Square rally to sell CHALLENGE and talk to some laundry, restaurant and transit workers about their labor struggles. I am a retired transit worker who participated in the 1964 Transit Strike that shut the city down for 11 days and forced the city to give a pension after 20 years, which all the workers I talked to have lost.

The young workers knew about the strike. I explained that the benefits were won because the union leadership at that time received only the average pay of the rest of the workers and not the six figure salaries of today's union misleaders, much like today's politicians who are bought and sold by anonymous unlimited contributions. The revisionists tried to sell me their socialist propaganda which I refused, explaining it was just state capitalism.

Some workers however seemed favorable to my communist ideas by buying all the CHALLENGE issues I had and taking many pictures of my sign which read, "Capitalists worldwide need you to fight other workers for power and profits…communists want to turn profit wars into revolution for workers' power – read CHALLENGE".

★★★★★



GLOSSARY

COMMUNIST TERMS

Fascism

Capitalism's response to a crisis of their system, when the bosses can no longer sustain the charade of liberal democracy and resort to more direct control and state terror instead. Fascism is marked by the ruling capitalists disciplining their own ranks to serve the urgent needs of the capitalist state and weather the crisis. To defend their system from internal and external threats, they use all the means available in their state apparatus, including violence. To build unity within their class and loyalty from workers, they rely on nationalist politics and calls for sacrifice. Their strategy is to mislead the working class to kill our working class sisters and brothers in the next inter-imperialist war.

Big Fascists

The Big Fascists are the dominant finance capitalist faction of the U.S. ruling class. They represent the wealthiest and most powerful bosses in the U.S., including multinational banks like Chase and Citibank, multinational oil companies like ExxonMobil, the big automakers, Boeing, Amazon, and the major media companies. As the dominant grouping since World War II, the Big Fascists were the architects of the liberal world order with the U.S. bosses on top. Their dominance rests on U.S. financial and military power and its strategic control of the Middle East and the flow of oil to Europe, Asia, and Africa. To sustain this dominance, they need to rebuild a huge, multiracial military for inter-imperialist war, most likely with China.

Small Fascists

The Small Fascists are a group of domestically oriented U.S. capitalists who are challenging the Big Fascists over the direction of U.S. imperialism. Since their interests are less tied to controlling the flow of oil, they are against heavy taxation to keep troops in the Middle East and in general oppose costly military bases and invasions. They're willing to rely on a smaller, whiter army, backed by nuclear weapons and the Air Force. They use open racism to build a political following.

U.S. bosses always controlled workers' reproduction

From its earliest days capitalism has used its state power in the courts and the law to control the working class' ability to have children. The brutal enforcement of the bosses' policies and practices on childbirth have been intertwined with their building of a racist society. The latest move to ban abortion is no isolated attack on women. It is an attack on all workers and a warning of more fascist discipline for the working class on the horizon, with Black, Latin and indigenous women disproportionately bearing the brunt of these sexist, racist attacks (see editorial on page 2).

The foundations of a racist U.S.

In the English colonies the colonial ruling class was focused on controlling how the population grew. The first law relating to population control was passed in 1662 in Virginia which enshrined that slavery would be passed onto the children based on the status, enslaved or free, of the mother. This preserved the rulers' ability to produce enslaved workers through the rape of enslaved Black women. Around the same time, the first laws were passed that banned the marriage of white and Black workers as equals. This forced the creation of separate groups of workers, white workers as indentured servants or wage labor, and enslaved Black workers (Reproductive Justice, UC Press, 2017).

Genocide of the indigenous

While the early U.S. ruling class was using rape and enacting racist laws to increase the size of the enslaved population, they were using legalized genocide to destroy the indigenous population. The colonial and early U.S. governments authorized over 1,500 wars and legal raids against indigenous people. After 100 years of attacks the Indian Removal Act of 1830 further legalized what had already been the practice of the U.S. rulers: forced death marches as the U.S. rulers expanded their country westward. After forcing indigenous workers onto reservations, a new attack was started where the U.S. ruling class began a campaign of forcibly seizing indigenous children from their families and sending them to government-run boarding schools and then to white families. All to increase the amount of white workers in the west and eliminate the indigenous population. All told, the indigenous population, estimated to be between 5 and 15 million in 1492, was nearly wiped out, leaving only 230,000 by the end of the 19th century (history.com).

Racism and population control

After the Civil War the ruling class maintained the separation of white and non-white workers through a series of laws that enforced segregation and population control. Racist laws were enacted that prevented Black and white workers from integrating. Once Black workers were no longer enslaved, the ruling class began a campaign to stop their reproductive growth. They accomplished this by distributing contraception and using forced sterilization on the Black and immigrant working class. The U.S. sterilization laws targeting anyone the government deemed "unfit" were eventually copied by the Nazis to justify their genocidal policies (Hitler's American Model, James Whitman).

Birth control became another method against reproduction. Margaret Sanger, the founder of the birth control movement that became Planned Parenthood, was a proponent of eugenics, the racist idea that white people were genetically superior to non-white people. Sanger, supported by the ruling class through donations to her birth control clinics, toured the country speaking about the need to limit the number of children among Black and immigrant workers (NPR, 8/14/2015).

Eventually, as the depression of 1929 created armies of unemployed workers and the ruling class feared that the growing communist movement would overthrow U.S. capitalism, birth control campaigns and forced sterilization were expanded to include the poorest groups of white workers as well (Reproductive Justice, UC Press, 2017).

The bosses' only interest in the working class is as a tool to make profits. Our lives, our wellbeing and our children mean nothing to the ruling class other than making money. To this day their healthcare policies are limited to the minimal necessities to keep enough workers able to go to work to make money for the bosses. The bosses fight and resist anything beyond that. The fight over control of having children is part of this battle between our class and the bosses. They use the laws and the courts to control as much as they can who has children and what happens to our children after they're born. The working class will only gain control of our lives and our future by smashing the capitalists and their racist system with communist revolution. ✪

No Wars 🔥🚙🔥 No Borders 🔥...
@Vicky_ACAB
You have to die of covid for their economy, you have to die of poverty for their economy, you have to die from pregnancy complications for their economy, you have to die from american arms for their economy, you have to die from unemployment and debt for their economy

Communist revolution and the survival of future generations are inextricably tied

heaux spirit asiago
@fkaLuna_
no steps to push roe v wade into amendment, just using it as a "vote or die" campaign for 50 years
8:22 PM · 5/2/22 · Twitter for iPhone

The death trap of electoral politics can only be smashed by worker's organizing for communist revolution.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

U.S. scrambles to hold its "rules based system" together

Foreign Affairs, 5/6–The post-1945 U.S.-led international order is by far the most institutionalized rules-based order to date...[a] vulnerability of the postwar order is the growing influence of what can be termed the "hedging middle" in world politics—countries that prefer to avoid taking sides in the U.S.-Chinese and U.S.-Russian rivalries and therefore hesitate to enforce the norms of the order.

These countries—including Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Turkey… if more of them come to see a Chinese-Russian axis as a useful counterweight to U.S. and Western dominance and therefore defect from U.S.-led institutions, the postwar order will be in deep trouble.

This dynamic is already apparent in the international response to Russia's war...the global reaction has been more cautious than many realize. Less than two dozen countries are fully committed to imposing economic sanctions against Russia, and many in the hedging middle have explicitly rejected such measure…[if] middle powers gradually drift away from its core institutions, decline to enforce its norms, and join China and even Russia in various efforts to formulate a more multipolar world system… the postwar order may collapse into a new era of conflict.

KKKops killing even more U.S. workers

Washington Post, 2/9–In 2021, police shot and killed at least 1,055 people nationwide, the highest number on record, according to the Washington Post, which has been tracking fatal shootings by cops since 2015...Black Americans are killed at a much higher rate than white Americans. "Although half of the people shot and killed by police are white, Black Americans are shot disproportionately. They account for less than 13 percent of the U.S. population but are killed by police at more than twice the rate of white Americans. Hispanic Americans are also killed by police at a disproportionate rate."

Workers in Somalia starve as U.S./NATO/EU choose bombs over food

Der Spiegel, 3/31–A teenage girl is squatting on the dusty ground, her long robe covering her entire body, right down to her feet. She's surrounded by plastic tarps rippling in the wind, stretched as they are across branches bound together to create dome-shaped shelters. It is a camp for displaced people, set up by the Somalian government in the southern part of the country. More than 4 million of the country's population of 16 million have been affected.

Among the makeshift tents, small mounds of earth can periodically be seen. They are graves, and they used to be at the edge of the camp. But every day, dozens more people show up and build shelters for themselves. A tent city that has expanded beyond the dead. There is no aid organization that brings food to the camp on a regular basis… On good days, they get a single meal. On bad days, there is nothing at all…There simply isn't enough money... only 3 percent of the humanitarian aid Somalia needs has thus far been met. A major donor conference was scheduled to bring in money to make a dent in the suffering...only a third of the 3.9-billion-euro target was collected.

Russia-Ukraine war is practice for bigger war in Pacific

New York Times, 5/7– The Biden administration is quietly pressing the Taiwanese government to order American-made weapons that would help its small military repel a seaborne invasion by China… U.S. officials have decided that certain weapons systems the Taiwanese Defense Ministry has tried to order…are not suited for warfare against the Chinese military. U.S. officials have warned their Taiwanese counterparts that the State Department would reject such requests…Another State Department official said conversations with Taiwan on weapons took place early in the Biden administration, and both governments are now looking at lessons learned from the Ukraine war. Resupplying weapons to a besieged Taiwan, an island, could prove more difficult for the United States and its allies than it has been in Ukraine. As a result, some officials are considering stockpiling large amounts of munitions in Taiwan.

BROOKLYN

Whose day? Workers' day!

April 30, Brooklyn— A stream of red Progressive Labor Party (PLP) flags flowed down Flatbush Avenue once again to celebrate this year's May Day and the millions of workers worldwide that led the working class fightback for the 8-hour workday. In Chicago in 1886, 350,000 workers took to the streets to resist the ruling class' demands for the "sunup to sundown" workday and demanded an end to worker's lethal working conditions. The Chicago workers' fight against capitalist exploitation sparked an uprising in Haymarket Square, during which cops murdered four workers and wounded hundreds more.

In 1889, the International Workers Association demanded the eight-hour workday across borders. This push for internationalism aligns with our Party's line. One class. The international working class. The Progressive Labor Party proudly carried the torch, marching in Brooklyn, New York, with bold, communist fightback, carrying the words written on the Haymarket Monument in our hearts: THE DAY WILL COME WHEN OUR SILENCE WILL BE MORE POWERFUL THAN THE VOICES YOU ARE THROTTLING TODAY.

Fannng flames of revolution with class rage and optimism

Our class rage fueled our march, from the ruling classes' callous acceptance of mass COVID deaths to reckless U.S. and Russian imperialists' flirtation with nuclear war in Ukraine. In the year since our last May Day march, the ruling class worldwide continues to cheapen and destroy working class lives internationally. Nevertheless, our march was fueled by revolutionary optimism. While the ruling class ramps up its preparation for World War III, using Ukraine as a pawn in their inter-imperialist rivalry, dozens of workers boldly took over the streets, proclaiming we will smash racist borders and imperialist war with communist revolution.

As we passed the Kings Theater marquee that advertised his foul name, we chanted, "Eric Adams, you can't hide, we charge you with genocide!" denouncing the lies and deceptions he recently spewed there regarding his first 100 days in office. Recently, Adams gamed workers that lost family members to gun violence on stage and vowed to 'fight crime by unleashing his racist kkkops.As the crisis of capitalism deepens and the splits between the Big Fascist capitalists, fronted by Biden, and the Small Fascist America First capitalists, once represented by Donald Trump, intensifies the bosses will continue to intensify their attacks on workers.

For the Big Fascists, the main finance capital wing, the current play is to appoint members of historically oppressed groups to manage our class's oppression. Black liberal misleaders Adams are managing local New York bosses' fascist housing and wage theft crisis by criminalizing workers. His answer to making streets safe is to ramp up racist policing and broken windows policies to crack down on Black and Latin youth,and homeless workers on trains and pitting Asian workers against Black workers.

With Adam's plan for terror, we are witnessing the fascist disciplining of our class in real time. PLP's response to this volatile system is to unite with workers and families in antiracist struggles and build a communist movement that smash the fascist bosses once and for all.

Honoring May Day with international worker solidarity

The entire day was a celebration of international working class unity through our collective struggles to overthrow the capitalist dictatorship. Hundreds of multiracial, multi-gendered, intergenerational workers combined forces for an international celebration of working class power. Our speeches presented political clarity on why workers fight for communism. "The working class will determine society's future. Our Black, Latin, Asian, white and immigrant sisters and brothers will rise to end imperialist wars that send our youth to kill their class brothers and sisters worldwide, all for the bosses' profits." Messages of solidarity sprouted from comrades in Haiti: "We face a government that cannot govern. We have a working class that cannot live as it once did: see the strikes and demonstrations of tens of thousands of workers demanding an increase in the minimum wage (despite the threat of police and gangs). The only thing we lack is a revolutionary party with a deep base within the working class: this is the task of Progressive Labor Party in Haiti today and tomorrow. We are ready to accept it."

We heard messages from Colombia and Mexico: "This capitalist democracy does not work for the benefit of the working class and cannot be reformed. It must be destroyed by workers' power," further fueling an already energized working class crowd in Brooklyn. Provisions were made for translation of all proceedings into Spanish, and chants resonated in English, Spanish, and Haitian Kreyol.

In an inspiring moment of solidarity, construction workers interrupted their toil to hail our march. Amidst the foundation of yet another residential tower sure to contribute to racist gentrification, they held CHALLENGE newspaper high and offered a phone number to remain in touch with the communists marching by their job site.

Marching alongside PLP were transit workers, immigrants' rights organizations, organizers struggling against displacement and police terror, and anti-racist young people from teacher education programs. All of these attendees represent working-class potential. Under communist leadership, workers will run all aspects of society. We need these workers and many more, as well as students and youth, to join our movement. On May Day our objective is clear. We fight for workers' power through communism. Join us!✪

CHALLENGE strives to be the communist paper for and by the international working class. We call on all readers, supporters, and comrades to submit class struggle articles, analytical pieces, original photos and graphics, letters, and political cartoons. The next deadline is the **Friday evening of May 20** Send to desafio.challenge@gmail.com. For some guidance and house style rules, please go to www.bit.ly/338ZJow

All submissions are open to collective discussion, struggle, and change. See box on page 2 about fighting for collectivity and against a cult of the individual.

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